

Priority 4 – Provision of rural services

What the grants are for

These grants are for projects that grow the local economy by improving rural communities, particularly in terms of access to services and the provision of infrastructure. They could include the development of community buildings, public spaces, or cultural or tourism amenities.

Who can apply

These grants could be for:

- new or existing micro or small businesses
- rural community organisations
- charities
- public or private entities working in partnership with small and micro business and rural community groups
- local authorities in exceptional circumstances, where for example the project outcomes are enhanced by their inclusion, or the local authority can show that the project and the funding required is in addition to their statutory requirement to provide rural services

How much funding is available

The amount of funding you can get depends on whether or not the project is commercially run and intended to make a profit. The minimum grant is £2,500 and the maximum grant that REAL Devon LAG will offer is £150,000.

Type of project	Maximum percentage
Commercial, profit-making project (such as a transport or social care service operating commercially)	up to 40%
Makes some income to offset costs but is not intended to make a profit (a community hall where any income covers only operating costs and maintenance)	up to 80%
Generates no income (playgrounds, transport services where there is no charge made for the service)	up to 100%

***Industrial de minimis state aid regulations** mean that a maximum of €200,000 (currently around £170,000) of public funds is available to an undertaking in any rolling period of 3 financial years. If you have had other public funding this may count towards the industrial de minimis aid amount and reduce the amount of money you can apply for from LEADER. Any industrial de minimis state aid received by linked businesses will count towards the industrial de minimis amount.

Basic Payment Scheme and Countryside Stewardship payments do NOT count towards the industrial de minimis limit.

- creation, improvement or expansion of small-scale village infrastructure, including amenity buildings and village access (for example footpaths)
- developing village infrastructure and access to key services, which may include tourism projects that increase services for the local community and contribute to village renewal
- setting up, improving or expanding essential services (for example transport) for the local community

Costs could include:

- constructing and/or improving buildings
- buying new and second hand equipment and machinery

The following costs are also eligible, if they form part of a larger project being funded:

- architect, engineer or consultant fees related to the project (as long as these don't add up to more than 15% of the project's total eligible costs)
- buying or developing a dedicated piece of computer software (but not an off-the-shelf piece of software like Microsoft Office)
- patents, licences, copyrights or trademarks
- landscaping, when it is 'making good' as part of a larger construction project
- development of marketing materials, but not their production or distribution

Purchasing of buildings for community use where the project is not intended to make a profit **may** be eligible. Please talk to the LAG before submitting an EOI if your project involves the purchase of a building for community use.

What isn't covered

In addition to [the general list of costs which can't be claimed](#), the provision of broadband infrastructure is not eligible under this priority.